

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1 through 3 and 5 through 16 are pending, with Claims 1, 9, and 10 being independent. Claims 1, 9, and 10 have been amended. In addition, the title has been amended to reflect the claim amendments. Support for the claim amendments is found, at least in Figure 1 and the accompanying description.

Claims 1 through 3 and 5 through 16 are variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Applicant's alleged admitted prior art discussed in the specification in view of Japanese Laid-Open Patent Appln. No. 8-256296 ("JP '296"), which was cited in the September 22, 2003 Information Disclosure Statement that has been considered by the Examiner, and US 2002/0051071 A1 (Itano, et al.). The May 6, 2008 Official Action refers to "YAMAMURA et al. (US PgPub 2002/0025164)" but the Examiner intended to refer to JP '296, as was confirmed by the unofficial action faxed to Applicants on May 16, 2008.

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejections, independent Claims 1, 9, and 10 have been amended. Applicants submit that as amended, these claims are allowable for the following reasons.

Independent Claim 1 relates to a solid state image pick-up device formed on a chip, comprising a pixel region, an amplifier for amplifying the signal charge read from the pixel region by horizontal scanning circuits, outputting video signals, and a pad for outputting the video signals to an outside of the chip.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the horizontal scanning circuits are arranged along sides of the chip sandwiching the pixel region for reading a signal charge from the pixel region, and a vertical scanning circuit arranged along a side of the chip not

parallel to the side of the chip and along which none of the horizontal scanning circuits is arranged, and having a lower driving frequency than that of the horizontal scanning circuits. Claim 1 has also been amended to recite that the pad is arranged along a side of the chip along which none of the horizontal scanning circuits and the vertical scanning circuit is arranged.

By this arrangement, an adverse effect that would otherwise occur, due to the high frequency of the horizontal and vertical scanning circuits, can be removed.

In contrast, neither Applicant's alleged admitted prior art discussed in the specification, nor Japanese Laid-Open Patent Appln. No. 8-256296, is understood to disclose or suggest a pad for outputting the video signals to an outside of the chip arranged along a side of the chip along which none of horizontal scanning circuits and a vertical scanning circuit is arranged, where the horizontal scanning circuits are arranged along sides of the chip sandwiching the pixel region for reading a signal charge from the pixel region, and the vertical scanning circuit is arranged along a side of the chip not parallel to the side of the chip and along which none of the horizontal scanning circuits is arranged, and having a lower driving frequency than that of the horizontal scanning circuits, as recited by amended Claim 1. As a result, these citations are not understood to remove the adverse effect that would otherwise occur, due to the high frequency of the horizontal and vertical scanning circuits.

Since amended Claim 1 recites at least one feature not understood to be disclosed or suggested by the applied art, Applicants respectfully submit that the Office has not yet established a prima facie case of obviousness against amended Claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of amended Claim 1 be withdrawn. And because independent Claims 9 and 10 have been amended in a similar manner, they are

submitted to be allowable for similar reasons. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of amended Claims 9 and 10 be withdrawn.

The dependent claims are allowable for the reasons given for the independent claims and because they recite features that are patentable in their own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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